National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Mortality-temperature thresholds for ten major population centres in rural Victoria, Australia

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Abstract:

Mortality temperature relationships in small regional towns in Victoria, Australia, were used to ascertain whether the effects of high ambient temperatures documented in the literature for major population centres in Europe and America are also noted in small rural communities in Australia. The establishment of threshold temperatures in all major rural regions of Victoria indicate that hot weather results in an increase in mortality in persons aged 65 years and older. This adds considerable strength to the argument that human populations are vulnerable to heat events regardless of location. Heat alerts can be issued through local health and welfare agencies, to increase awareness of 'hot' weather as a health hazard for elderly people by providing education campaigns involving local authorities based on these simple thresholds. (c) 2010 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Australasia

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Morbidity/Mortality

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☑

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly

Resource Type: ☑

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: ☑

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified